



October 6, 2016

## The Magnificent Seven



*The Magnificent Seven* is a remake of a remake of the original foreign film classic, *The Seven Samurai*.

I suppose I am blessed to have been around long enough to remember the greatness of the original Japanese tale and can recall the classic western revision with affection as great pieces of cinematic history. I am also equally blessed to be able to just go along with the new multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-racial effort put forth this time around.

I can enjoy all versions of the story as representative of the time and space existing when

they were created. You can't ask for a better performance from Denzel Washington. He always gives his best. And Ethan Hawke, Chris Pratt and Peter Sarsgaard deliver straight to the heart shots in their roles, but the scene stealer for me is Vincent D'Onofrio. His performance made me realize how much he has been missed on the big screen. D'Onofrio is one of those actors that make every performance unique and great. If you doubt me, go back and take a look at *Full Metal Jacket*.

The story in *The Magnificent Seven* is pretty straight forward. Town is terrorized by evil land and gold baron, a damsel in distress hires some independent contractors who take on the bad guy. There is lots of shooting and justice for most. Karma is played out both instantly and unexpectedly. I like a good Western and this one is good enough to see on an evening date or matinee. Just don't expect more than what this movie proposes and



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you will enjoy the action and the acting. *The Magnificent Seven* is a solid B movie from start to finish.

Back in the day, Westerns were composed of Good guys in white hats and bad guys in black hats. Now we are faced with the heroes in black who come along to take on the challenges that no one else wants to and who are willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of what is right—whether that is right or wrong. The way I see it, these magnificent seven were out to gain a little bit of merit for themselves by defending the rights of decent people, from those villains who in reality are merely the extremist versions of themselves.

I give *The Magnificent Seven* three and a half golden tickets.

